

CIA/RR GP 60-111:1  
31 October 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director Central Intelligence

THROUGH: DDP/EBM

SUBJECT: Comments Pertinent to the Semi-Annual Appraisal of  
Policy and the Operations Plan for Antarctica, 1960

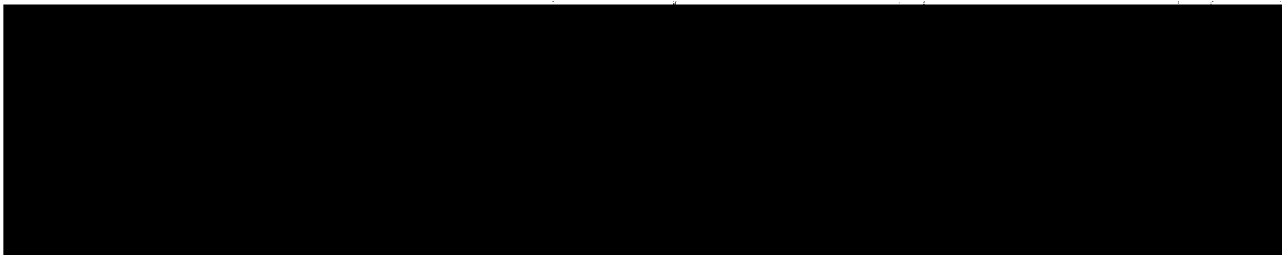
I. Comments on the Appraisal of Policy, NSC 5905/1

A. Certain policy desks in the Department of State that are concerned with problems of coping with Communist regimes not recognized by the United States have emphasized the need to review the Policy (para 18) in order to bring it in line with the 1959 Antarctic Treaty, as signed. Just before the Treaty Conference, owing to the insistence of the China and East European desks, the US position was defined in such a manner that the wording of the Treaty would not create or seem to create any benefits for unrecognized Communist regimes. This was achieved through US support of Articles II and XIII of the Treaty in their final form. Article II of the Treaty, contrary to the broad concept expressed in para 18b of the Policy, is interpreted by the Department of State as recognizing freedom of research in Antarctica only for those nations that are parties to the Treaty. Article XIII excludes unwanted regimes from the rights of accession to the Treaty without US consent. The same State policy desks now want US Policy to narrow the broad sweep of para 18b in order to prevent any commitments that would accord Treaty rights to the unrecognized regimes and their nationals. Unfortunately, such a change in policy is negative in character and would not serve to prevent any country not a party to the Treaty from entering Antarctica for research -- or any other purpose. Certain other US objectives would be more constructive and will require defining in the next Policy review: (1) guidance on contingency action in the event that any of the unrecognized regimes enter Antarctica, (2) guidance on and the definition of authority for the planning and development of US economic activities in Antarctica, and (3) allocation of central responsibility for implementing the inspection provision of the Treaty.

II. Comments on the Operations Plan

A. Although no revision of the Operations Plan is needed at present, certain deficiencies are developing and will be questioned in the OCB Working Group during the next 6-month period. The systematic mapping and geodetic research program in Antarctica now included in the Operations Plan, is meaningless because Defense officials claim to have no funds available for it. The 20-Year Geodetic Program of the Department of Defense assigns a low priority to Antarctica, and the National Science Foundation does not wish to increase its already substantial budget by assuming the entire cost of field operations and map compilation. Another deficiency is the lack of operational plans to implement an inspection program. A third deficiency is the continued lack of a US station in the Bellingshausen Sea area.

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### III. Summary of Current Soviet Activities

A. Three of the nine previously established Soviet stations have operated through the past winter and continued operation is planned for 1961 -- Mirnyy (main base), Vostok (interior), and Lazaryev (Queen Maud Land coast) -- and two other interior stations will operate during the summer. Lazaryev is being moved inland to a rock site. Plans call for an air base at the site, and an eventual expansion of the staff from 11 to 25 is contemplated.

B. Greater emphasis is to be placed on air operations for airlifting scientific teams and establishing temporary camps. In the future, heavy turbo-prop aircraft are to be added to those now in operation.

C. Research in meteorology, seismology, glaciology and other geophysical fields is to continue. Added emphasis will be placed on geodesy and gravimetry by the addition of a closed traverse in the interior. Heavy emphasis on mapping will continue, especially geological mapping in Queen Maud Land Mountains, and aeromagnetic mapping will be undertaken. Oceanography will probably again include gravity observations in the Indian Ocean Sector.

D. A third whaling flotilla is to be put in operation this season, making a total of more than 50 vessels in Antarctic waters; and a fourth flotilla is to be added in 1961.

E. The USSR ratified the Antarctic Treaty on 20 October 1960.

F. Subtle Soviet publicity is continuing to build up Soviet achievements and minimize those of others nations. The US 1956 maps at 1:500,000, for example, are claimed to have little value.

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